

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 EURE-00 /063 W

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P R 091830Z JUL 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2640

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 3665

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO MPOL PFOR MARR

SUBJECT: EXERCISE DEEP EXPRESS 75 IN THE AEGEAN AND TURKISH  
THRACE

REF: USDELMC 525/75 DTG 021630Z JUL 75 NOTAL

SUMMARY: THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, ADMIRAL SIR PETER HILL-NORTON, RAISED AT THE JULY 8 NAC MEETING THE ISSUE OF NATO EXERCISE DEEP EXPRESS 75 SHCEDULED TO BE HELD IN THE AEGEAN AND TURKISH THRACE IN SEPTEMBER. HE SAID THAT THIS EXERCISE MAY HAVE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS AND THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER THIS MATTER AND FORWARD ITS VIEWS TO THE DPC. THIS CABLE PROVIDES BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON DEEP EXPRESS 75 AND CONSIDERATIONS WE BELIEVE TO BE RELEVANT TO WASHINGTONS ASSESSMENT OF THIS POTENTIALLY SENSITIVE ISSUE IN GREEK AND TURKISH RELATIONS WITH NATO. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT JULY 8 NAC MEETING, UNDER "ANY OTHER BUSINESS", MILITARY SECRET

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ADMIRAL HILL-NORTON BROUGHT UP SUBJECT OF EXERCISE "DEEP EXPRESS 75".

2. HILL-NORTON SAID THAT THIS EXERCISE INVOLVED THE ACE

MOBILE FORCE (AMF) AND WOULD BE HELD IN THE AEGEAN AND TURKISH THRACE FROM SEPT 12 TO 28, 1975. FOLLOWING NORMAL PROCEDURES, THE DPC IN DECEMBER TOOK NOTE OF NATO PLANS TO HOLD THIS EXERCISE ALONG WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED OTHERS. IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR THE MILITARY COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER PRESS RELEASES REGARDING EXERCISES THAT MIGHT ATTRACT PRESS ATTENTION, AND THE IMS HAS ALREADY CIRCULATED TO MC MEMBERS A DOCUMENT REGARDING A PRESS RELEASE FOR EXERCISE DEEP EXPRESS 75. HILL-NORTON SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THE POSSIBLE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THIS EXERCISE THE MILITARY COMMITTEE WILL FORWARD ITS DECISION ON THIS MATTER TO THE DPC. COMMENT : USDELMC HAS REQUESTED GUIDANCE ON THIS PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE WHICH HAS BEEN POUCHED TO WASHINGTON; SEE REFTEL. THE IMS HAS REQUESTED COMMENTS BY JULY 23 AND WE EXPECT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THIS ISSUE SHORTLY THEREAFTER. END COMMENT.

3. IN BRINGING THIS EXERCISE TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL, HILL-NORTON SAID HE WANTED TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE MATTER HAD NOT YET BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE. HE ANTICIPATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE MC WOULD WISH TO STRESS THE MILITARY VALUE OF THIS EXERCISE SINCE THE ACE MOBILE FORCE HAD NOT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN SUCH AN EXERCISE FOR TWO YEARS. HE CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS AMPLE TIME TO CONSIDER THIS MATTER SINCE THE EXERCISE WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL SEPTEMBER.

4. SYG LUNS EXPRESSED HIS APPROVAL OF THE PROCEDURES HILL-NORTON WAS FOLLOWING IN THIS MATTER. THERE WAS NO COMMENT ON THIS SUBJECT BY ANY OF THE PERMREPS.

5. BACKGROUND AND COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT HILL-NORTON'S INTERVENTION WAS PROMPTED BY A CALL FROM THE SYGS CABINET DIRECTOR VAN CAMPEN QUESTIONING WHY THIS EXERCISE HAD BEEN SCHEDULED AT AN INOPPORTUNE TIME IN A SENSITIVE REGION. ALSO, WE HEARD INFORMALLY ON JULY 7 THAT THE GREEK PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE MIGHT RAISE THE ISSUE SOON AT NATO HEADQUARTERS AND MIGHT MAINTAIN THAT DEEP EXPRESS 75 WOULD VIOLATE GREECE'S SOVEREIGNTY.

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6. IN LOOKING INTO THE STATUS AND BACKGROUND OF THIS EXERCISE A MISSION OFFICER VISITED SHAPE ON JULY 8 FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS IN US CHANNELS. HE LEARNED THE FOLLOWING:

A. CINCSOUTH, IN COORDINATION WITH CINCENT, HAS BEEN WORKING FOR MONTHS IN PLANNING THE EXERCISE AND WORKING OUT THE OPERATIONAL DETAILS WITH NATIONS CONCERNED.

B. THE EXERCISE HAS THREE PRIMARY PHASES:

-- DEPLOYMENT BY AIR OF THE ACE MOBILE FORCE TO TURKISH THRACE.

-- OPERATIONS BY NATO FORCES IN TURKISH THRACE.

-- CONVOY OPERATIONS THROUGH THE AEGEAN, INCLUDING TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT FOR MARITIME OPERATIONS (TASMO) AND AN AMPHIBIOUS LANDING IN TURKEY.

C. FOR THIS PARTICULAR EXERCISE, INDIVIDUAL NATIONS ARE TO OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION TO FLY THROUGH THE ATHENS FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION (FIR) BY MAKING BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH GREECE. SHOULD NATIONS NOT BE ABLE TO GAIN AUTHORIZATION FROM GREECE, ALTERNATIVE PROVISIONS EXIST FOR THE ACE MOBILE FORCE TO DEPLOY TO THE EXERCISE AREA BY CIRCUMNAVIGATING THE ATHENS FIR. THOUGHT NOT PLEASED AT THIS POSSIBILITY OF CIRCUMNAVIGATION, PARTICIPATING NATIONS HAVE NOT EXPRESSED UNWILLINGNESS TO FLY AROUND THE ATNENS FIR. NATO EXERCISE FUNDS CAN COVER THE ADDITIONAL COSTS INVOLVED IF NECESSARY.

D. AIRCRAFT OF SEVERAL NATINS, INCLUDING TURKEY, WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE TASMO OPERATIONS. AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED THE EXERCISE DID NOT CALL FOR TASMO OPERATIONS BUT, AT THE INSISTENCE OF THE TURKS, THESE OPERATIONS WERE ADDED. THE TURKS ARE ADAMANT ON THIS POINT.

E. WITHIN THEPAST FEW DAYS, SHAPE RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM SHAFc (THE GREEK MILITARY HEADQUARTERS) ASKING THAT THE TASMO OPERATIONS NOT BE HELD. THE GREEKS ALSO ASKED THAT THE NATO NAVAL FORCES OPERATING IN THE AEGEAN NOT BE ASSIGNED TO COMEDNOREAST, A NATO COMMAND HEADED BY A TURKISH NAVAL OFFICER.

F. ON THE TASMO PROBLEM, A GREEK MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE FROM SHAFc CONTENDED, AT AN EXERCISE CONFERENCE HELD AT SHAPE JUNE 10-11, THAT THE HIGH PERFORMANCE AIRCRAFT INVOLVED IN TASMO FLIGHTS CANNOT POSSIBLY AVOID VIOLATING GREEK NATIONAL AIRSPACE.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2641

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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G. ACCORDING TO SHAPE, HOWEVER, CINCSOUTH HAS PLANNED

ALL TASMO FLIGHTS TO AVOID ANY VIOLATION OF GREEK AIRSPACE.  
THE FLIGHTS WOULD REMAIN AT LEAST TEN MILES FROM THE GREEK  
MAINLAND AND ISLANDS AT ALL TIMES.

H. ON JULY 7, WE UNDERSTAND SACEUR DECIDED THAT DEEP  
EXPRESS 75 SHOULD CONTINUE AS PLANNED.

7. IN LIGHT OF THIS BACKGROUND, WE BELIEVE THAT DEEP EXPRESS  
75 MAY BECOME A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE HERE AT NATO HEADQUARTERS.  
WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING FOR WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION:

A. IT IS TOO LATE TO CHANGE THE LOCATION OF THE EXERCISE.  
WE UNDERSTAND ITALY WILL NOT AGREE TO HOSTING AN  
EXERCISE OF THIS TYPE THIS YEAR, AND A SHIFT TO AFNORTH WOULD  
TAKE MANY MONTHS TO PLAN.

B. SOME MODIFICATIONS MIGHT STILL BE MADE BUT TURKEY  
IS LIKELY TO OBJECT STRONGLY TO ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES. WE  
NOTE THAT TURKEY SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED INCLUSION OF THE MOST  
CONTENTIOUS PART OF THE EXERCISE, WHICH IS THE TASMO OPERATION.

C. THE EXERCISE COULD BE CANCELLED OUTRIGHT, WHICH  
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WOULD PROBABLY SATISFY THE GREEKS. CANCELLATION, HOWEVER,  
WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY INVOKE A STRONG REACTION FROM TURKEY,  
WHICH IS ALREADY PRESSING HARD FOR NATO TO ADDRESS ITS  
DEFENSE SHORTCOMINGS ARISING FROM GREECE'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE  
NATO INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURE (USNATO 2783 AND PREVIOUS).

D. CONTINUING WITH THE EXERCISE MAY COMPLICATE THE  
GREECE/NATO NEGOTIATIONS NOW SCHEDULED TO RESUME IN  
SEPTEMBER.

E. TURKEY PROBABLY ATTACHES HIGH POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE  
TO THE EXERCISE. TURKEY MIGHT CHARGE THAT ANY MOVE TO CANCEL  
THE EXERCISE IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF CONTINUED NATO CATERING TO  
GREECE AND MIGHT FURTHER QUESTION THE ADVANTAGE TO TURKEY OF  
ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE NATO INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURE.

8. THE NEXT PROCEDURAL STEP AT NATO HEADQUARTERS ON DEEP  
EXPRESS 75 WILL BE MILITARY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF THE  
EXERCISE PRESS ASPECTS BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH.  
THE GREEKS, WHO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MC, COULD  
COMMENT ON THE EXERCISE AT THAT TIME-- AS THEY MAY

AS WELL IN THE NAC, PARTICULARLY SINCE HILL-NORTON HAS NOW  
RAISED THIS ISSUE IN THAT FORUM. WE NOTE THAT THE GREEKS  
HAVE FROM THE OUTSET BEEN FULLY INFORMED ABOUT THE  
EXERCISE PLANNING AND THAT TO DATE THEY HAVE NOT OBJECTED TO  
THE EXERCISE ITSELF IN NATO BODIES. THEY HAVE LIMITED  
EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN TO QUESTIONS OF COMMAND AND CONTROL OF  
NATO NAVAL FORCES IN THE AEGEAN AND THE TASMO OPERATION.  
PLANNING FOR THE EXERCISE IS CONTINUING AND NATO MILITARY  
AUTHORITIES ARE ATTEMPTING TO ACCOMMODATE SPECIFIC GREEK  
CONCERNS.

9. WE WILL MONITOR THIS ISSUE CLOSELY AND WILL REPORT ANY

FURTHER INDICATION OF GREEK OR TURK CONCERNS. IN ABSENCE  
OF GREEK OBJECTION TO HOLDING THE EXERCISE, WE BELIEVE  
US SHOULD NOT TAKE AN INITIATIVE TO ATTEMPT TO CANCEL OR  
SIGNIFICANTLY MODIFY THIS EXERCISE. IF GREEKS DO OBJECT AT  
LATER STAGE TO HOLDING THE EXERCISE, WE BELIEVE US SHOULD COOR-  
DINATE ITS REACTION CLOSELY WITH OTHER PARTICIPANTS (UK FRG,  
ITALY, BELGIUM, THE NETHERLANDS) SO THAT DECISION ON EXERCISE  
IS SEEN AS CLEARLY A NATO DECISION AND NOT AS A US MOVE WHICH  
MIGHT EXACERBATE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH GREECE AND TURKEY.

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ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS. BRUCE

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